

comprising means for converting the data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--82. The electronic sourcing system of claim 79 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--83. The electronic sourcing system of claim 79 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

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--84. An electronic sourcing system comprising:
a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two vendors;
means for searching for matching items in the database;
means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated vendors;
means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items.--

--85. An electronic sourcing system of claim 84 wherein the requisition includes matching items from at least two vendors.--

--86. The electronic sourcing system of claim 84 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to vendor catalog numbers.--

--87. The electronic sourcing system of claim 84 further comprising means for converting the data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--88. The electronic sourcing system of claim 84 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--89. The electronic sourcing system of claim 84 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

⁹--90. The electronic sourcing system of claim ⁶87 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

¹⁰--91. The electronic sourcing system of claim ⁶87 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

--92. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

at least two vendor product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective vendors;

means for searching for matching items among the vendor product catalogs;

means for building a requisition that includes a first matching item and a second matching item, each associated with a different vendor; and

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for the first and the second matching items.--

¹²--93. The electronic sourcing system of claim ¹¹92 wherein a first purchase order includes data relating to the first matching item.--

¹³--94. The electronic sourcing system of claim ¹²93 wherein a second purchase order includes data relating to the second matching catalog item.--

Sub B3
--95. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

data relating to items associated with at least two vendors maintained so that selected data may be searched separately;

means for searching for matching items among the selected data;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated vendor(s); and

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated vendor(s).--

--96. The electronic sourcing system of claim 95 wherein the purchase orders use data relating to at least two vendors.--

--97. The electronic sourcing system of claim 95 wherein the purchase orders use data relating to vendor catalog numbers.--

--98. The electronic sourcing system of claim 95 further comprising means for converting the data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--99. The electronic sourcing system of claim 95 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--100. The electronic sourcing system of claim 95 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

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--101. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two vendors maintained so that selected portions of the database may be searched separately;

means for searching for matching items in the selected portions of the database;

means for building a requisition that includes data relating to selected matching items;

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for selected matching items.--

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--102. The electronic sourcing system of claim 101¹⁹ wherein the purchase orders include data relating to vendor catalog numbers.--

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--103. The electronic sourcing system of claim 101 further comprising means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--104. An electronic sourcing system of claim 101 wherein the requisition includes matching items from at least two vendors.--

--105. The electronic sourcing system of claim 104 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to the vendor associated with the selected matching item.--

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--106. The electronic sourcing system of claim 101
further comprising means for determining whether a selected
matching item is available in inventory.--

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--107. The electronic sourcing system of claim 101
further comprising means for determining the applicable price of
a selected matching item.--

--108. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least two vendor product catalogs
on a database containing data relating to items associated with
the respective vendors;

selecting the vendor product catalogs to search;

searching for matching items among the selected
vendor product catalogs;

building a requisition using data relating to
selected matching items and their associated vendor(s); and

processing the requisition to generate one or more
purchase orders for the selected matching items.--

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--109. The method of claim 108 wherein the purchase
orders include data relating to a vendor catalog number for the
selected matching items.--

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--110. The method of claim 108 further comprising the
step of converting data relating to a selected matching item and
its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and
a corresponding item.--

--111. The method of claim 108 further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--112. The method of claim 108 further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

--113. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two vendors;

searching for matching items among the data relating to the items;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated vendor(s); and

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated vendor(s).--

--114. The method of claim 113 wherein the purchase orders use data relating to at least two vendors.--

--115. The method of claim 113 wherein the purchase orders use data relating to vendor catalog numbers.--

--116. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of converting the data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--117. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--118. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

--119. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing at least two vendor product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective vendors;

searching for matching items among the vendor product catalogs;

building a requisition that includes a first matching item and a second matching item, each from a different vendor product catalog; and

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for the first and the second matching items.--

--120. The method of claim 119 wherein a first purchase order uses data relating to the first matching item and a second purchase order uses data relating to the second matching catalog item.--

--121. The method of claim 119 further comprising the step of converting data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--122. The method of claim 119 further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--123. The method of claim 119 further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

--124. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two vendors whereby selected portions of the database may be searched separately;

searching for matching items among the selected portions of the database;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated vendor(s); and

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated vendor(s).--

--125. The method of claim 124 wherein a first purchase order uses data relating to selected matching items from a first vendor and a second purchase order uses data relating to selected matching items from a second vendor.--

--126. The method of claim 124 further comprising the step of converting the data relating to a selected matching item and its associated vendor to data relating to a different vendor and a corresponding item.--

--127. The method of claim 124 further comprising the step of determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--

--128. The method of claim 124 further comprising the step of determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.--

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--129. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two vendors whereby selected portions of the database may be searched separately;

searching for matching items in the selected portions of the database;

building a requisition that includes selected matching items;

processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for selected matching items.--

REMARKS

Applicants have withdrawn claims 1 through 78 and submitted new claims 79 through 129 which more clearly define the claimed invention. Applicants have amended the claims using the following terminology: "matching items" are the search results (see e.g., specification at page 5, lines 11-24); "selected matching items" are requisition items (see e.g., specification at page 5, lines 11-24); "associated vendor" is the vendor or source (e.g., different warehouses operated by one vendor) associated with a selected matching item (see e.g., specification at page 8, lines 25 through page 9, line 6); "selected vendor catalogs" are the catalogs, subcatalogs or portions of the database to be searched (see e.g., specification at page 19, lines 15-19); and